Difficulties faced by farmers of Rajasthan due to sortage of urea

7456. SHRI RAMDAS AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whethr Government are aware of the difficulties and losses suffered by farmers of Rajasthan on account of shortage of urea and other chemical fertilisers;

(b) if so, the total stock of urea/fertilisers in the country as on 1st April, 1995;

(c) the estimated production and demand of urea/fertilisers for 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) the estimated fertilisers likely to be imported during 1995-96 till date; and

(e) the manner in which demand of Rajasthan in this regard is proposed to be met during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The overall availability of urea in Rajasthan during Kharif 1994 and Rabi 1994-95 was satisfactory with reference to the allocations made under Essential Commodities Act, (ECA) 1955. Temporary and localised shortages experienced during the year due to production constraints or delayed arrivals of urea vessels were met by rushing supplies from alternative sources.

The availability of urea during the current Kharif season in the State is comfortable with reference to the current demand. The availability of other fertliizers which are decontrolled, is determined by market forces.

(b) and (c) Estimated stocks of major frtilizers, namely Urea, Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) & Muriate of Potash (MOP) as on 1.4.95, as reported by the companies, were as under:

Urea	12.55 lakh tonnes
DAP	6.42 lakh tonnes
MOP	7.08 lakh tonnes

The desired information in respect of major fertilizers is as under:

(figures in lakh tonnes)

	Actual/Targeted production		*Assessed Demand/Sales	
	1994-95	1995-96	1994-95	1995-96
Urea	141.42	153.79	172.52	87.67 (for Kharif '95)
DAP	28.23	29.40	34.98	Not available
MOP	nil	nil	17.04	Not available

*The exercise of demand assessment is carried over in respect of controlled fertilziers i.e. Urea. For DAP & MOP, which are decontrolled, the effective demand is expressed in terms of sales.

(d) 3.29 lakh tonnes of urea has been imported during April '95. It is not in the public interest to desclose the information on future imports. The volume of imports of decontrolled fertilizers is determined by market forces.

(e) The demand for urea in the entire country, including Rajasthan, is met by indigenous production as well as imports. The demand and supply of decontrolled fertilizers are governed by market forces.